

Press Release

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Mary E. Bower, CMC
Executive Office Manager
Clerk to the Board

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February Transit Board Meeting Highlights

The Board conducted a public hearing during its February meeting on a transit service improvement proposal to add a weekday morning run to its fixed-route bus service between Sequim and Port Angeles. The system's Operations and Maintenance Committee met last summer to review possible 2016 budgetary restraints and agreed with staff's recommendation to implement an added trip to the system's Route No. 30-Highway 101 Commuter service.

In developing the major service change proposal for implementation in 2016, staff wanted the proposed new service to contribute to the system's efficiencies and to be sustainable. The proposed transit service improvement requested was to add an 11:30 a.m. weekday trip leaving the Port Angeles Gateway Transit Center. The route generally has 30-minute service, except between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon when the route offers hourly service. Ridership has been historically higher than average on the 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon trips. By adding a trip at 11:30 a.m., crowding on the 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon trips would be reduced. The additional run could foster additional ridership on its own, and improve on-time performance. The annual cost effect of the additional service is \$31,800 and this was included in the approved 2016 budget.

Staff noted that a legal notice was posted on February 3 on this proposed transit service improvement. Written comment was accepted up to February 12. No public comments were received as the result of this notice.

During the public testimony portion of the public hearing, A member of the public provided some general statements related to Route No. 30 service in regards to serving the Carlsborg residential community. He requested the fares should be priced lower to allow more short trips from Sequim. He desired people to ride the bus and to not walk in the shoulder of the road. He also remarked briefly on the poor location of the Owl Creek pedestrian underpass. He said he felt that since Route No. 30 was identified as a "commuter" route, fewer people are riding it due to being designated as "premium" service with a higher fare. Angus said he feels there are now fewer people being picked up along the route in comparison to prior times as well. He asked transit Board members if they ride system service regularly and encouraged them to do so in order to know where Clallam Transit passengers are riding. Board Chairman Brad Collins thanked Mr.

Anderson for his comments. There was no other public testimony received on the proposed transit service change.

During the remainder of the meeting, the following actions were taken by the Board:

- Authorized a resolution to commend outgoing Board Chairman Bryon Monohon for his leadership and service to the Board during 2015.
- Approved the proposed transit service improvement as recommended for Route No. 30 to add a weekday trip at 11:30 a.m. leaving the Port Angeles Gateway Transit Center. The effective date of the change is March 20.
- Confirmed the appointment of Forks City Councilman Jon Preston to the Board's Administration and Finance Committee for 2016.
- Confirmed the designation of a Clallam County Commissioner Bill Peach as the system's second alternate to the Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization's (RTPO) Executive Board for 2016.
- Proclaimed March 18 as Transit Driver Appreciation Day in Clallam County.

The next meeting of the Clallam Transit System Board will be held on Monday, March 21, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. at the Sequim Transit Center, 190 West Cedar Street, in Sequim.